73 - 1168

31 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting Re COINS With Morton Goulder, Deputy
             Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indications
             and Warning, 30 August 1973

1.   I gathered together 18 CIA analysts (including
3 from CRS) from all of the DDI production offices, IAS,
NPIC, OSI and FMSAC to meet with Mr. Goulder. All had
made some use of COINS. (Note: A year or so ago it
would have been difficult to find 5 CIA COINS users.)
Mr. Goulder opened the meeting by stating that he found
using COINS a fairly frustrating experience and that he
would like their views on the system and COINS files.
For the next 2 hours he went around the table soliciting
same.

2.   The gist of the CIA comments were as follows:

   (a)   Most analysts had obtained useful informa-
         tion from COINS; some found it quite useful
         (IAS, NPIC, OBGI, FMSAC).

   (b)   Some COINS files are not updated frequently
         enough for current intelligence use (NSA
         flight activity; an NSA future events file).

   (c)   No one depended exclusively on a COINS file
         for information; COINS was another source
         worth checking.

   (d)   Most analysts use COINS via a CRS inter-
         mediary; they found this a satisfactory
         mode of operation.

   (e)   The newer, younger analyst, as opposed to
         the old timer, is more likely to want to
         try COINS.

   (f)   Those that had actually used a terminal were
         critical of the system aspects of COINS;
         i.e., slow turnaround, multiple query
         languages, output bound, output printing
         too slow, etc.

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     3.   If I were Mr. Goulder, I would have been left
with the impression that CIA users have a positive
attitude toward COINS. I think he got what he wanted;
i.e., honest opinions from users.

/S/

STAT

                    Acting Chief, Information Services Group
                           Central Reference Service

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